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BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Plane and Spherical Trigonometry. An elementary text-book. By Charles H. Ashton, A. M., Instructor in Mathematics in Harvard University, and Walter R. Marsh, A. B., Head Master Pingry School, Elizabeth, N. J. 8vo. Cloth, x+157 pages. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Two distinguishing features of this text may be noted. The first is the systematic distinction (except in the first two chapters on the functions of acute angles and the solution of right triangles) between positive and negative directions of straight lines. The second is the proof of the addition theorem by the method of projection (as well as the usual proof). These features show that the text is thoroughly up to date. Among the minor points of pedagogical excellence is the *introduction* of the cosecant, secant, and cotangent as the reciprocals of the sine, cosine, and tangent, respectively. The book is well printed and the page attractive. L. E. D.

Elements of the Theory of the Newtonian Potential Functions. By B. O. Peirce, Ph. D., Hollis Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Harvard University. Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged. 8vo. Cloth, xiii+490 pages. Price, $1.50. Boston and Chicago: Ginn & Co.

The chief difference between this and the first edition is in the way of additions. The first edition contained 178 pages, this contains 490 pages. In the present edition, a full discussion is given of electrostatics and electrokinematics. In this edition, 40 pages are devoted to a treatment of Electromagnetism, against none in the first edition. Current Induction is also more fully treated. Under each chapter is given a list of problems the solution of which will fix in the mind the principles under discussion. The work ends with a list of 387 problems some of which will tax the powers of the mathematician.

This scholarly book is a valuable contribution to mathematical Physics. It is very clear and easily understood by students who have a good working knowledge of mechanics and the calculus. B. F. F.

Elements of Physics. By Fernando Sanford, Professor in Leland Stanford Junior University. 8vo. Cloth, xxxi+426 pages. Price, $1.20. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

In this text-book, Mechanics is based on the energy concept from the beginning. In the treatment of properties of bodies, the gaseous state is treated before the liquid and the solid states. The author justifies this by the relative simplicity of the gaseous state of aggregation as compared with the liquid or solid states. Considerable stress is laid on the kinetic theory of gases. The greatest departure from established usage in elementary text-books is made in the subject of Optics. In this book Optics is treated geometrically from the beginning. This book contains only such experiments as are essential to the successful teaching of the subject. It is well written, but in the absence of a fairly well equipped laboratory, it is deficient in illustrations of important pieces of apparatus. B. F. F.

A Short Course in Plane and Spherical Trigonometry. By Edwin S. Crawley, Ph. D., Thomas A. Scott Professor of Mathematics in the University of Pennsylvania. 8vo. Cloth, 116+xxvii pages. Price, with tables, $1.00. Published by the author.

This is, in part, an abridgment of the author's "Elements of Plane and Spherical Trigonometry." It is most admirably adapted to the needs of the better class of High Schools and Normal Schools, and may be used to advantage in most colleges. B. F. F.